United Nations S/2009/31

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice the Security Council invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the meeting of the Security Council that will be held on Wednesday, 14 January 2009, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

09-20862 (E) 140109

United Nations S/2009/32

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2009

Original: English

Identical letters dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing the present letter to inform you of recent events related to the Hamas terrorist organization's ongoing practice of deliberately endangering civilians.

In the course of recent operations in the Gaza Strip, Israel has accumulated mounting evidence regarding Hamas's appalling use of civilians as human shields and of its launching of operations from civilian locations. Many weapons caches have been found in mosques, schools and homes; a military operations centre has been located under Gaza's largest hospital; and terrorists routinely fire from inside the houses of civilians who are held as hostages, prevented by Hamas from leaving. While Hamas's use of human shields is long-documented, the extent to which it has resorted to this deliberate practice in recent weeks is shocking, and the evidence for it is overwhelming and incontrovertible.

And now, faced with increasing pressure, Hamas has taken the ultimate cynical route: terrorists are increasingly booby-trapping civilian houses and other buildings in anticipation of the Israel Defense Forces. It does this with total disregard for the safety of Gaza's civilians.

I report these events and findings to you with urgency, since it is the civilians on both sides that suffer from Hamas's singular aim of destroying Israel and its people. I wish to assure you that Israel is taking all reasonable precautions under the circumstances to avoid civilian casualties. However, I must reiterate that it is Hamas that bears sole responsibility for the results of the current campaign. It is Hamas that unceasingly rains rockets down on Israel, and it is Hamas that deliberately endangers Gaza's civilians.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-20800 (E) 140109

United Nations S/2009/33

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, with regard to the serious situation in the Gaza Strip.

The members of the Non-Aligned Movement continue to follow the course of events on the ground with deep concern and firmly condemn the military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Gaza Strip.

This brutal Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and is causing vast suffering among the Palestinian civilian population.

The Non-Aligned Movement condemns in the strongest terms Israel's blatant disregard of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), which was adopted by the Council on 8 January 2009 and which calls, inter alia, for an immediate ceasefire, and its flagrant defiance of the repeated calls from the international community for a complete cessation of military activities and of the serious regional and international diplomatic efforts under way to resolve the current crisis.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 1860, including in particular its call for an immediate ceasefire leading to the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from Gaza and for measures to address the pressing humanitarian and economic needs of the Palestinian people, including by the sustained and permanent opening of Gaza's border crossings to ensure the free access of humanitarian aid and other essential supplies and goods and to facilitate the passage of persons to and from the Gaza Strip.

Please find attached a copy of the statement issued today by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, with respect to the non-compliance by Israel of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and the escalation of the military aggression by Israel against the Gaza Strip (see annex).

I kindly request you to distribute the present letter and its annex as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Abelardo **Moreno**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of
the Non-Aligned Movement

09-20868 (E) 150109

Annex to the letter dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the non-compliance of Israel with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and the escalation of the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 January 2009 and considered the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the massive military aggression that continues to be carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population.

NAM reiterates its strong condemnation of the massive military aggression being carried out by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip.

NAM condemns in the strongest terms Israel's blatant disregard of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), which was adopted by the Council on 8 January 2009 and which calls, inter alia, for an immediate ceasefire, and its flagrant defiance of the repeated calls from the international community for a complete cessation of military activities.

NAM calls for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 1860, including in particular its call for an immediate ceasefire leading to the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from Gaza as well as for measures to address the pressing humanitarian and economic needs of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including by the sustained and permanent opening of Gaza's border crossings fully in accordance with the terms and provisions of resolution 1860, to ensure the free access of humanitarian aid and other essential supplies and goods and to facilitate the passage of persons to and from the Gaza Strip.

NAM reiterates that this brutal Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and is causing vast suffering among the Palestinian civilian population, fuelling the cycle of violence and threatening international peace and security as well as the fragile peace process between the two sides.

NAM reiterates its deep regret at the vast loss of innocent lives and injury being caused to Palestinian civilians by this brutal Israeli military campaign as well as at the extensive destruction being caused to homes, properties and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, NAM expresses its deepest condolences to the grieving Palestinian people as they mourn the loss of more than 900 Palestinians killed, including more than 280 children, and the more than 4,000 Palestinians injured, including more than 1,200 children, by the occupying forces in the Gaza Strip.

NAM once again expresses its grave concern at the widespread suffering and trauma being inflicted on the Palestinian civilian population and at the deepening human tragedy and humanitarian disaster unfolding in the Gaza Strip as a result of

the continuing military actions by Israel, the occupying Power, against the civilian population as well as its ongoing blockade of Gaza, obstructing the movement of persons and goods, including of humanitarian personnel and vital humanitarian supplies, including of desperately-needed food, medicines, and fuel, into, out of and throughout the Gaza Strip in collective punishment of the civilian population.

In light of the continuation of this illegal and unacceptable situation, NAM thus urgently calls once again for an immediate cessation of all military activities and violence. NAM calls for all efforts to be exerted to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease this aggression and to scrupulously abide by all of its obligations under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel unconditionally comply with its obligations as the occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

Moreover, in light of the dire situation being faced by the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation and aggression in the Gaza Strip, NAM reiterates its calls for the immediate provision of protection for the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

NAM expresses its serious concerns regarding the extensive difficulties being faced by medical and rescue workers in the Gaza Strip in evacuating and treating civilians wounded and in need of emergency medical treatment due to Israel's continued targeting and obstruction of ambulances and rescue workers and due to severe shortages in medical supplies and the disrepair and unavailability of the necessary equipment to respond to this critical situation, which is exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population. In this regard, NAM expresses its strong condemnation regarding Israel's targeting and killing of United Nations humanitarian personnel, including UNRWA personnel, working tirelessly to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and calls upon the occupying Power to respect international law and the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

NAM stresses the need for intensified and coordinated efforts by the international community to bring an end to this crisis and to exert all necessary efforts to support and promote the peace process as well as to ensure respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, the key to a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, as the sole means to guarantee a lasting peace in the region.

NAM expresses its support for all diplomatic and political efforts and initiatives being exerted at the international and regional levels to address this crisis, including by the United Nations system, stressing once again that there is no military solution to this crisis or to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a whole.

NAM supports and calls for the full implementation of Human Rights Council resolution on the grave violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly due to the Israeli military attacks against the occupied Gaza Strip, adopted on Monday, 12 January 2009, and the speedy dispatch of the independent international fact-finding mission called for therein to investigate violations of human rights and of international law by Israel.

The Movement will actively consider all possible actions in order to guarantee the investigation and prosecution of all those responsible for crimes against the civilian population in Gaza. In this regard, NAM stresses that criminal justice must take its course.

NAM also underscores that the General Assembly, the most democratic and representative body of the United Nations, has the duty to duly respond to the concerns of the international community regarding the crisis situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli military campaign and add its voice and weight to that of the Security Council in calling for an immediate ceasefire and for respect by the occupying Power of its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

In that context, NAM supports the convening of the resumed tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly at the earliest possible date and requests the President of the General Assembly to begin forthwith the process of consultations to that effect.

NAM stresses the urgency of continued efforts by the international community and relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies to effectively address the many political, humanitarian, socio-economic and security ramifications of this crisis.

At this critical time, the Movement specifically calls upon the international community to make a special effort to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, including by extending emergency assistance to meet the urgent requirements of the population of Gaza. The Movement also calls upon the international community to pledge the necessary assistance to rebuild the infrastructure of Gaza at the earliest feasible juncture, and the economy of Gaza as well as the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Movement underlines that the international community must invest in the recovery and development of economic infrastructure and capacity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which would contribute to an environment conducive for the resumption of the peace process.

The Movement reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

New York, 13 January 2009

United Nations S/2009/34

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2009
English
Original: French

Letter dated 9 January 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the command of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Major General Robert Mood of Norway as the Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of UNTSO. General Mood will replace Major General Ian Gordon, who will relinquish his post on 15 January 2009.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

09-20911 (E) 150109 150109

United Nations S/2009/35

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2009
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 January 2009 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 9 January 2009 (S/2009/34) concerning your intention to appoint Major General Robert Mood of Norway as the Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Jean-Maurice **Ripert**
President of the Security Council

09-20917 (E) 150109 150109

United Nations A/63/679–S/2009/36

General Assembly
Security Council

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15 January 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda items 15, 16, 29, 30 and 38

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Letter dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, with regard to the grave situation in the Gaza Strip.

The members of the Non-Aligned Movement continue to follow the course of events on the ground with deep concern and firmly condemn the military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Gaza Strip.

This brutal Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and is causing vast suffering among the Palestinian civilian population.

On behalf of the Movement, I would like to thank you and your team for the efforts and the intensive work you are carrying out in order to effectively address the grave humanitarian crisis affecting Gaza's population.

I reiterate that you can always count on the support of the Non-Aligned Movement and that we are at your disposal to undertake any action you consider relevant in support of your work.

09-21039 (E) 150109 150109

Please find attached a copy of the statement issued today by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement with respect to the non-compliance by Israel of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and the escalation of the military aggression by Israel against the Gaza Strip in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (see annex).

I kindly request you to distribute the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly in relation to the following agenda items: 15, The situation in the Middle East; 16, Question of Palestine; 29, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; 30, Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories; and 38, Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

I likewise request you to distribute the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abelardo **Moreno Fernández**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex to the letter dated 13 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the non-compliance by Israel with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and the escalation of the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 January 2009 and considered the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the massive military aggression that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out against the Palestinian civilian population.

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its strong condemnation of the massive military aggression being carried out by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Non-Aligned Movement condemns in the strongest terms Israel's blatant disregard of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), which was adopted by the Council on 8 January 2009 and which calls, inter alia, for an immediate ceasefire, and its flagrant defiance of the repeated calls from the international community for a complete cessation of military activities.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), including the call for an immediate ceasefire leading to the withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from Gaza, as well as for measures to address the pressing humanitarian and economic needs of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and permanent reopening of the Gaza crossings, fully in accordance with the terms and provisions of resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and other essential supplies and goods and to facilitate the movement of persons to and from the Gaza Strip.

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates that this brutal Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and is causing considerable suffering among the Palestinian civilian population, fuelling the cycle of violence and threatening international peace and security as well as the fragile peace process between the two sides.

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its deep regret over the considerable loss of innocent lives and injuries to Palestinian civilians as a result of this brutal Israeli military campaign as well as over the extensive destruction of homes, properties and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement expresses its deepest condolences to the grieving Palestinian people as they mourn the loss of more than 900 Palestinians, including more than 280 children, and the more than 4,000 Palestinians injured, including more than 1,200 children, by the occupying forces in the Gaza Strip.

The Non-Aligned Movement once again expresses its grave concern at the widespread suffering and trauma being visited upon the Palestinian civilian population and at the deepening human tragedy and humanitarian disaster unfolding in the Gaza Strip as a result of the continuing military actions by Israel, the occupying Power, against the civilian population as well as its ongoing blockade of Gaza, obstructing the movement of persons and goods, including of humanitarian personnel and vital humanitarian supplies, including of desperately needed food, medicines, and fuel, into, out of and throughout the Gaza Strip in collective punishment of the civilian population.

In light of this continuing illegal and unacceptable situation, the Non-Aligned Movement once again urgently calls for an immediate cessation of all military activities and violence. It demands that every effort must be made to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease this aggression and to scrupulously abide by all its obligations under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel unconditionally comply with its obligations as the occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

Moreover, in light of the dire situation being faced by the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation and aggression in the Gaza Strip, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its calls for the immediate provision of protection for the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses grave concern over the serious difficulties being faced by medical and rescue workers in the Gaza Strip in evacuating wounded civilians in need of emergency medical treatment because of Israel's continued targeting and obstruction of ambulances and rescue workers, severe shortages of medical supplies and the poor state of repair and lack of the necessary equipment to respond to this critical situation, which is exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemns Israel's targeting and killing of United Nations humanitarian personnel, including United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) personnel, who work tirelessly to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and calls upon the occupying Power to respect international law and the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses the need for the international community to intensify and coordinate its efforts to bring this crisis to an end and take such steps as may be necessary to support and promote the peace process as well as to ensure respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, the key to a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, as the only path to ensuring a lasting peace in the region.

The Non-Aligned Movement supports all the diplomatic and political efforts and initiatives that are being undertaken at the international and regional levels to address this crisis, including by the United Nations system, stressing once again that there is no military solution to this crisis or to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a whole.

The Non-Aligned Movement supports and calls for the full implementation of the Human Rights Council resolution on the grave violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, due to the Israeli military attacks against the occupied Gaza Strip, adopted on Monday, 12 January 2009, and the speedy dispatch of the independent international fact-finding mission called for therein to investigate violations of human rights and of international law by Israel.

The Movement will actively consider all possible actions designed to ensure that the crimes against the civilian population in Gaza are investigated and that all those responsible for such crimes are prosecuted. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses that criminal justice must take its course.

The Non-Aligned Movement further stresses that the General Assembly, the most democratic and representative body of the United Nations, is duty bound to respond to the concerns of the international community with respect to the crisis situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli military campaign and add its voice and weight to that of the Security Council in calling for an immediate ceasefire and calling on the occupying Power to abide by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

In that context, the Non-Aligned Movement supports the convening of the resumed tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly at the earliest possible date and requests the President of the General Assembly to begin forthwith the relevant consultations.

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses the urgency of continued efforts by the international community and relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to effectively address the many political, humanitarian, socio-economic and security ramifications of this crisis.

At this critical time, the Movement calls upon the international community to make a special effort to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, including by dispatching emergency assistance to meet the most pressing needs of the population of Gaza. The Movement also calls upon the international community to pledge the necessary assistance to rebuild the infrastructure of Gaza at the earliest feasible juncture, and the economy of Gaza as well as the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Movement stresses that the international community must invest in the economic recovery and development and rebuilding of the infrastructure and capacity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, thus helping to usher in an environment that is conducive to the resumption of the peace process.

The Movement reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and sovereignty in an independent State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

New York, 13 January 2009

United Nations S/2009/37

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2009

Original: English

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Turkey, Uganda and the United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Somalia, in particular resolution 733 (1992), resolution 751 (1992), resolution 1356 (2001), resolution 1425 (2002), resolution 1519 (2003), resolution 1725 (2006), resolution 1744 (2007), resolution 1772 (2007), resolution 1801 (2008), resolution 1811 (2008), resolution 1814 (2008), resolution 1831 (2008), and resolution 1844 (2008) and the statements of its President, in particular those of 13 July 2006 (S/PRST/2006/31), 22 December 2006 (S/PRST/2006/59), 30 April 2007 (S/PRST/2007/13), 14 June 2007 (S/PRST/2007/19), 19 December 2007 (S/PRST/2007/49), and 4 September 2008 (S/PRST/2008/33),

Reiterating its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Further reaffirming that the Djibouti Peace Agreement represents the basis for a resolution of the conflict in Somalia, and *stressing* the importance of broad-based and representative institutions reached through a political process ultimately inclusive of all,

Welcoming the guiding principles agreed by the parties to the Djibouti Peace Agreement on 25 November 2008, in particular the establishment of a Unity Government and an inclusive Parliament,

Recognizing the need for all parties to contribute to an enhanced political process, *calling on* the Somali parties to the Djibouti Peace Agreement to fulfil their obligations set out therein, and *taking note* of the request from the parties for United Nations authorization and deployment of an international stabilization force,

Welcoming the contribution of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, *expressing* its appreciation for the continued commitment of the Governments of Uganda and Burundi in Somalia, *condemning* any hostilities toward AMISOM, and *stressing* the importance of reestablishment, training and retention of Somali security forces,

09-21147 (E) 160109

Welcoming the Secretary-General's proposal for a partnership between the Somali parties, the United Nations, AMISOM and other international partners to develop a program of assistance to build Somali security capacity,

Reiterating its serious concern at the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, and *calling on* all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals,

Recognizing that serious crimes have been committed against civilians in the ongoing conflict in Somalia and *reaffirming* the importance of the fight against impunity,

Noting the statement and 5-point communiqué of the African Union of 10 December 2008 and 22 December 2008 respectively, whereby the African Union Peace and Security Council calls for an interim stabilization force in anticipation of a United Nation peacekeeping operation in Somalia in order to take over from AMISOM and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of that country,

Determining that the situation in Somalia constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the African Union that AMISOM will remain in Somalia until 16 March 2009, and *requests* the African Union to maintain AMISOM's deployment in Somalia and to reinforce that deployment to help achieve AMISOM's originally mandated troop strength of 8,000 troops, thereby enhancing the mission's capability to carry out its mandate and protect key installations in Mogadishu, including the airport, seaport and other strategic areas;

2. *Decides* to renew for up to six months from the date of this resolution the authorization of Member States of the African Union to maintain a mission in Somalia, which shall be authorized to take all necessary measures to carry out the mandate set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 1772 (2007); and *underlines*, in particular, that AMISOM is authorized to take all necessary measures to provide security for key infrastructure and to contribute, as may be requested and within its capabilities and existing mandate, to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Calls upon* the Somali parties and other stakeholders to uphold the principles of the Djibouti Peace Agreement, to cease hostilities, to ensure without delay unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to the Somali people, to terminate all acts of armed confrontation, to reach agreement on permanent ceasefire mechanisms, and to use the Joint Security Committee to resolve disputes over military issues; and *requests* the Secretary-General to report on ways to improve the implementation of the Djibouti Peace Agreement, including the option of an international peace conference to include local, regional and international actors;

4. *Expresses* its intent to establish a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council by 1 June 2009;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report for a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation by 15 April 2009, to include developments in the situation

in Somalia, progress towards the full deployment and strengthening of AMISOM with a view to transition to a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation, progress in the political process and security conditions on the ground, in order to inform the Security Council of his assessment in advance of the decision referred to in paragraph 4 above and with a view to speedy deployment;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General in this report to develop recommendations on the mandate of such a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation taking into account the following tasks in Mogadishu and its environs:

(a) To facilitate humanitarian assistance and improve humanitarian access, including by securing key humanitarian infrastructure and maintaining liaison with all parties to the Djibouti Peace Agreement and related subsequent agreements, and to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, children, and other affected persons;

(b) To assist with the free movement, safe passage and protection of those involved in the political process, to provide security for key political infrastructure, and to protect and assist the institutions of a future Unity Government to help them carry out their functions;

(c) To monitor, within its capabilities, the implementation of the cessation of hostilities under the Djibouti Peace Agreement, as well as any subsequent ceasefire arrangements and joint security arrangements agreed through the Joint Security Committee (JSC), to liaise with the JSC and provide technical assistance in the implementation of its functions, including in the investigation of ceasefire violations, and to support in the monitoring of illegal weapons traffic by informing the Monitoring Group of any related information;

(d) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and to protect its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and mission;

(e) To assist, in conjunction with regional and international donor partners and other interested parties, in supporting the effective re-establishment, training and retention of inclusive Somali security forces, including military, police, and judiciary;

7. *Affirms* that the provisions set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of resolution 1772 (2007) shall continue to apply;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to provide financial support to AMISOM until a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation is deployed and to assist in the reestablishment, training and retention of all-inclusive Somali security forces as provided in paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1744 (2007); *also requests* the Secretary-General to hold a donors conference to solicit contributions to this trust fund as soon as possible; *further requests* the African Union, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to submit budgetary requests to this trust fund; and *calls upon* Member States to contribute to the trust fund, while noting that the existence of the trust fund does not preclude the conclusion of direct bilateral arrangements in support of AMISOM;

9. *Stresses* the need to create the conditions for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to make progress on the political process;

10. *Welcomes* the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's letter of 19 December 2008 on strengthening AMISOM (S/2008/804); *recalls* that the Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations can improve collective security; *further recalls* that in resolution 1772 (2007) it called for planning for possible deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation replacing AMISOM and in resolution 1744 (2007) it took note that AMISOM was intended to contribute to an initial stabilization phase evolving into a possible United Nations operation; *welcomes* in this regard the Secretary-General's proposal for immediate in kind enhancement of AMISOM through the transfer of assets following the liquidation of United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE); and *requests* the Secretary-General, in order for AMISOM's forces to be incorporated into a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation, to provide a United Nations logistical support package to AMISOM including equipment and services, as described in paragraphs 7 and 8 of his proposal (S/2008/804) but not including transfer of funds to AMISOM, until 1 June 2009 or until the decision referred to in paragraph 4 above, whichever is earlier;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to oversee the assistance referred to in paragraph 10 above and *further requests* the Secretary-General to report no later than January 30 on the precise equipment and services being provided and to report to the Security Council at 30-day intervals thereafter on progress in the deployment of such goods and services;

12. *Requests* AMISOM to ensure all equipment and services provided by the United Nations pursuant to this resolution be used in a transparent and effective manner for the purposes intended and *further requests* AMISOM to report to the Secretary-General on the usage of such equipment and services in a manner to be detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the African Union based on appropriate internal control procedures;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to lend his support to African Union force generation efforts, to continue to support African Union planning and deployment preparations through the Secretariat's Planners team in Addis Ababa and to continue planning, in close cooperation with the African Union, for force generation and logistical, administrative, financial and other arrangements necessary to transition from AMISOM to a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute personnel, equipment, and other resources to AMISOM; and *encourages* Member States to cooperate closely with the African Union, the United Nations, troop contributing countries and other donors to this end;

15. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully in the deployment and operations of AMISOM, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security, and freedom of movement of African Union and United Nations personnel as well as associated personnel throughout Somalia and to comply fully with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Somalia, to coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in Somalia, to provide good offices and political support for the efforts to establish lasting peace

and stability in Somalia and to mobilize resources and support from the international community for both immediate recovery and long-term economic development of Somalia; *decides* that the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and the United Nations country team shall continue to promote a lasting peace and stability in Somalia through the implementation of the Djibouti Peace Agreement, and to facilitate coordination of international support to these efforts; and *requests* the Secretary-General to conduct immediate contingency planning for the deployment of United Nations offices and agencies into Somalia;

17. *Demands* that all States in the region refrain from any action that might exacerbate instability in Somalia or the Horn of Africa region, and reiterates its intention to take measures against those who seek to prevent or block a peaceful political process, or those who threaten participants in the political process by force, or those who undermine stability in Somalia or the region;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals;

19. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security, and 1674 (2006) and 1738 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and *stresses* the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in Somalia to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population in the country, consistent with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate or excessive use of force in populated areas;

20. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict and recalls the subsequent conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict pertaining to parties to the armed conflict in Somalia (S/AC.51/2007/14);

21. *Calls upon* the Somali parties to make further progress on establishing joint Transitional Security Forces, which ultimately would assume full responsibility for providing security in Somalia;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to advise urgently on the implementation of his plans to assist the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) in developing and coordinating, through his Special Representative for Somalia, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), other international donors, Member States and AMISOM as appropriate, a coherent strategy and package for command and control, training and equipment to build Somalia's joint Transitional Security Forces and Police to an anticipated strength of some 15,000 personnel, as envisaged in his letter of 19 December 2008 (S/2008/804) and in line with the recommendations of the TFG/ARS Joint Security Committee, as well as rule of law and correctional facilities, and other key areas identified by the Somali parties; and *calls upon* Member States to contribute to this package;

23. *Calls upon* Member States, in response to the Secretary-General's letter of 19 December 2008 (S/2008/804), to support strengthening and building capacity of the Somali government at the federal, state and local level, particularly in areas of institutional development, human resource development, public finance management and accountability processes and support to service delivery;

24. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal of 19 December 2008 (S/2008/804) to establish within UNPOS a dedicated capacity that would include expertise in police and military training, planning for future Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration activities and Security Sector Reform activities, as well as a rule of law and correction components;

25. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2009/38

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2009

Original: English

Identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write this letter of complaint regarding a very serious incident of vital importance to the United Nations. Today, 14 January 2009, at least four Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into Israel, with three of the rockets striking the area of Kiryat Shmona. One of the rockets fell short of Israeli territory and landed in Lebanon. This attack, and others like it, is designed to instil fear and terror among Israeli civilians. However, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) responded to the source of the fire in self-defence.

Today's attack is only the most visible and blatant violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) since 8 January 2009, and the attack proves, once again, that terrorist groups remain active in southern Lebanon. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon and its military responsible for ensuring that its territory is not used for hostile activities against Israel, for taking all measures to prevent the smuggling of weapons into its territory and for fully implementing resolution 1701 (2006). In that vein, I wish to mention that this attack comes as United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) forces today dismantled three Grad-type rockets shortly before they were to be launched at Israel.

Additionally, today's rocket fire and discovery, the second incident in less than one week, requires UNIFIL to engage in robust action in order to discharge its mandate to establish in its area of operation an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL. As such, UNIFIL must conduct a thorough investigation and take the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of this attack.

I wish to reiterate that Israel will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens from the escalating threat of terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-21071 (E) 150109

United Nations S/2009/39

Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request contained in the letter dated 21 December 2007 from the President of the Security Council (S/2007/754), in which the Council called on me to report on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) every six months. The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008, and addresses recommendations made in my reports to the Council of 13 March 2007 on cross-border issues in West Africa (S/2007/143) and of 30 June 2008 on the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2008/426). It focuses on cross-cutting and cross-border developments in the subregion and on activities undertaken by UNOWA of raising awareness of emerging threats and challenges, promoting consultations and synergies at the subregional level and liaising with and assisting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the promotion of peace and stability.

II. Recent cross-cutting and cross-border developments

2. In my previous report (S/2008/426), I stated that, despite the significant progress made in consolidating peace and stability in West Africa, challenges remained that threatened to derail the positive developments. Indeed, the situation remains fragile, as the root causes of conflict in a number of West African countries have yet to be addressed in an effective and enduring manner. The known threats of youth unemployment, food insecurity and rapid urbanization, as well as the challenges posed by corruption, irregular migration, human and drug trafficking, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, have been compounded by the adverse impact of the global financial and food crises on the subregion. West Africa was also affected by severe flooding in the course of the rainy season in 2008, resulting in hundreds of deaths and damage to infrastructure, property and crops in several countries. Furthermore, the scourge of coups d'état has re-emerged, as evidenced by the unconstitutional change of government in Mauritania in August, the armed attack on the residence of the President of Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Vieira, on 23 November and the move by a group of military officers in Guinea on 23 December to seize power after the death of President Lansana Conté.

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A. Food security and the effects of the global financial crisis

3. Although global food prices have declined after the sharp increases recorded in recent months and local harvests have generally been good, prices for key cereals throughout West Africa remain well above long-term averages. The problem has been most severe in urban areas and countries that are net importers of food. In areas where market dependence is high — that is, where more than 50 per cent of food is bought on the market — rapid increases in global food prices can result in reduced spending on health care, education, clean water, income generation and the maintenance of livelihoods.

4. During the reporting period, the subregion remained heavily affected by the food crisis. Unable to afford available food, large segments of the population have been forced to reduce their consumption or to exclude certain food items from their diets. There is still a concern that the poorest will remain particularly vulnerable as their coping strategies continue to erode. Consequently, there is a continuing need for West African Governments to further promote agricultural production and for donor countries to honour pledges to increase agricultural investment and aid, so as to prevent the destabilizing impact of food insecurity on social cohesion and stability.

5. The global financial crisis and the threat of a global recession have raised new concerns about the potential impact on African economies and on prospects for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Although the recent decrease in oil prices has, to some extent, eased macroeconomic and fiscal pressure in most West African countries, the broader, global nature of the crisis has generated a sharp fall in the price of primary commodity exports, which has had an adverse effect on terms of trade, government revenue, broader macroeconomic conditions and household incomes in countries whose economies rely heavily on export crops.

6. As a result of the credit crisis, West Africa may also face a reduction in foreign direct investment and remittances received from abroad. Despite assurances given by some major donors, there are concerns that official development assistance may decline as a result of the ongoing financial crisis. Decreased revenue and economic growth could reverse the modest gains achieved in poverty reduction in recent years, undermine the limited progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and increase the risk of instability in a subregion where some countries are fragile or have only recently emerged from conflict.

B. Drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime

7. Transnational organized crime, particularly drug trafficking, is increasingly becoming a major source of concern in the subregion. Several countries reported important seizures of narcotics (cocaine and cannabis) on their territory, unauthorized aeroplane landings most likely linked to drug trafficking, and arrests of Latin American, West African and European nationals involved in illicit trafficking. In Liberia, national law enforcement agencies and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) police conducted a large operation which resulted in the eradication of some 400,000 cannabis plants.

8. On a positive note, West African Governments are now building their capacity to respond to the challenge at both the national and subregional levels. Drug

trafficking and cross-border organized crime are increasingly viewed critically by both Governments and the public, and efforts are being made to tackle the problem in a constructive manner. The infiltration of drug money into the political arena, for example, featured as a major electoral issue in some election campaigns in the subregion. There is, however, a need for continued awareness-raising at all levels of leadership regarding the harmful impact of drug trafficking and organized crime on governance and security.

C. Elections and governance

9. As I stated in my previous report, elections in West Africa remain potentially destabilizing processes that can result in political violence, economic disruption and social strife in fragile societies. During the reporting period, election-related incidents and tensions were reported throughout the subregion, while some elections were postponed owing to various problems, including logistical and security constraints. At the same time, the subregion registered successful electoral processes, which were conducted in a smooth and peaceful manner.

10. The military coup of 6 August against the democratically elected President of Mauritania, Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdellahi, constituted a setback for democracy in that country and for a subregion that has achieved significant progress in the consolidation of democratic governance. That worrying development was condemned by the international community, which had actively supported the two-year process to restore constitutional governance in Mauritania following the coup d'état of 2005.

III. Activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa

11. During the period under review, UNOWA undertook a series of activities aimed at building the capacity of and strengthening United Nations cooperation with subregional organizations, in particular ECOWAS. Building and reinforcing synergies among United Nations entities in the subregion and collaboratively addressing cross-border challenges to peace and security also ranked high on the agenda of UNOWA. Furthermore, my Special Representative for West Africa, Said Djinnit, continued to support the activities of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in his capacity as its Chairman.

A. Cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States and other subregional organizations

12. The Office continued to focus on building and strengthening its strategic partnership with ECOWAS as the major organization in charge of promoting integration and stability in the subregion. During his visits to Ouagadougou on 1 and 2 August and 22 October, my Special Representative and the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Blaise Compaoré, discussed initiatives that could be taken to assist fragile States and further support ECOWAS in addressing problems such as food security, drug trafficking and organized crime and the challenges posed by elections. He also participated in the meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and

Security Council held in Ouagadougou on 2 December and attended the summit of Heads of State and of Government ECOWAS held in Abuja on 19 December.

13. As part of the ongoing strategy to address emerging threats to stability in a coordinated manner, my Special Representative and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, undertook joint working visits and good offices missions in the subregion. They travelled to Guinea on 7 and 8 July to explore avenues for supporting the country's efforts to restore stability following the recent political turmoil, focusing on the electoral process, security sector reform, governance challenges and drug trafficking. Together with the Minister for Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, representing the Chairman of ECOWAS, they also undertook a joint mission to Guinea-Bissau on 25 November to support the efforts of my Representative in that country, Shola Omoregie, and those of ECOWAS, to help restore order following the attack of 23 November on the residence of President Vieira in Bissau.

14. UNOWA has also forged strong tripartite cooperation with ECOWAS and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to deal with the growing threat of cross-border crime and drug trafficking in West Africa, and the three institutions worked closely in preparing for and organizing the Ministerial on Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa, which was held in Praia on 28 and 29 October.

15. In the area of human rights and gender, on 21 and 22 July UNOWA participated in consultations organized by the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Women Peace and Security Network Africa to prepare the terms of reference of a region-specific training manual for mainstreaming gender in multidimensional peace support operations in West Africa. UNOWA also participated in an experts' meeting, held in Dakar from 7 to 9 October, to assist the ECOWAS early warning system in designing a comprehensive Web-based forum to serve as a common platform for the exchange of information among key subregional stakeholders, including political and human rights experts. The Office was also represented at the twenty-third meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, which was held in Conakry from 29 to 31 October, to update the ECOWAS standby brigade road map for future exercises and activities.

16. ECOWAS was also encouraged to take part in events convened by UNOWA, including the expert preparatory meeting on the establishment of a subregional working group on women and peace and security in West Africa, held in Dakar on 28 July, and the regional workshop on the role of security institutions in providing security during electoral processes, held in Conakry from 24 to 26 November. The President of the ECOWAS Commission was invited to brief the quarterly UNOWA meeting of heads of Dakar-based United Nations regional agencies on 27 October, resulting in a fruitful discussion on security issues affecting the subregion. He stressed the potential of close cooperation between ECOWAS and the United Nations, particularly in support of the ECOWAS conflict prevention framework and standby force.

17. As recommended in my previous report, the Office continued to strengthen its partnership with and assist other key regional partners in joint efforts to promote peace and stability. The Secretary-General of the Mano River Union, Abraham Bouré, visited UNOWA on 16 September to pursue discussions on enhancing cooperation between the Union and the United Nations in support of stabilization

efforts in the Mano River basin (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and in building the Union's institutional capacity. He and my Special Representative also stressed the need to identify possible areas of collaboration on critical security issues, including disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of ex combatants, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and security sector reform. In seeking to create better synergies between the Mano River Union and the United Nations, including in support of the ongoing revitalization of the Union, UNOWA also facilitated a meeting on 17 September between the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union and the heads of Dakar-based regional United Nations agencies. My Special Representative continued his consultations with Union officials when he, together with my Special Representative for Liberia and my Executive Representative in Sierra Leone, attended the summit of the Union, held in Freetown on 10 November.

18. UNOWA is also working to strengthen cooperation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and with the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, focusing in particular on initiatives to address the challenges of the food crisis in the region.

19. In furtherance of its mandate to mobilize wider international support for regional stabilization efforts, UNOWA initiated contacts with the African Union, the African Development Bank, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa during the reporting period. It also participated in the meetings of the International Contact Group on the Mano River Basin and the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, held in New York on 23 September, and attended the fourteenth ministerial Troika meeting of the European Union and ECOWAS, held in Ouagadougou on 23 October, during which my Special Representative encouraged the European Union to maintain its support for ECOWAS and West African countries despite the ongoing global financial crisis. In subsequent talks with European Union officials, the need to reactivate the ECOWAS-UNOWA-European Union framework for action for peace and security was discussed.

B. United Nations inter-institutional cooperation

20. UNOWA remained actively involved in facilitating linkages among institutions of the United Nations system in the subregion. On 10 July and 6 October, it convened two information-sharing and coordination meetings of heads of Dakar-based United Nations agencies to discuss issues of common concern; such meetings have now become quarterly. Three ad hoc meetings of heads of United Nations regional offices were also held to discuss the situation in Mauritania, cooperation with the Mano River Union and partnership with ECOWAS.

21. On 11 December, the Office convened a brainstorming session with the heads of United Nations regional offices and resident coordinators from the subregion to identify core issues of common concern, to promote strategic thinking and synergies and to strengthen collaboration among United Nations entities. Participants discussed how best they could coordinate their efforts and strengthen their collaboration and work with UNOWA, especially in the areas of crisis prevention and peacebuilding. They identified areas of common interest where they could deliver more efficiently when working together as one United Nations.

22. My Special Representative engaged in regular consultations with representatives of States members of the Security Council when travelling in the subregion. He also organized two meetings with heads of diplomatic missions of States members of the Council based in Dakar on 31 July and 1 December, during which participants exchanged views on cross-border challenges in West Africa and on the role of UNOWA in facilitating collaboration among United Nations entities.

23. UNOWA continued to convene regular meetings of heads of United Nations peace missions in West Africa to exchange views on developments in their respective areas of responsibility and to assess challenges that remain in the area of consolidating peace, stability and democratic processes. Recommendations of the fourteenth meeting, which was held at the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau on 25 and 26 August, focused on increasing information-sharing and joint activities. The meeting also reaffirmed the lead role played by ECOWAS in promoting stability in West Africa, and advocated for a strengthened ECOWAS-United Nations partnership. The meeting was preceded by an inter-mission conference, held in Monrovia on 21 August, attended by United Nations force commanders and military advisers.

C. Governance

Elections and security sector reform

24. Pursuant to the recommendation contained in my previous report that UNOWA engage more actively in building the capacity of West African States and institutions in the area of security sector reform, the rule of law and good governance, the Office held a workshop in Conakry from 24 to 26 November on the role of the security sector in providing security during elections. The objective of the workshop was to highlight the importance of security sector reform in building peace and to strengthen the preparedness of security institutions responsible for maintaining law and order during electoral processes with a view to ensuring that elections in West Africa take place peacefully, in a transparent and credible manner.

25. The workshop was attended by security and electoral experts from West African countries, ECOWAS, the African Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, civil society organizations and the United Nations (the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, UNMIL, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations country team). On the basis of expert presentations and case studies, participants exchanged views and experiences on electoral processes, the role of States and regional institutions and issues related to security sector reform, such as the professionalization of security institutions. UNOWA intends to publish and distribute widely the workshop outcome with a view to triggering follow-up action within the United Nations system, ECOWAS, the African Union and other international, as well as well as civil society organizations.

The coup d'état in Mauritania

26. Following the unconstitutional overthrow, on 6 August, of the Government of the President of Mauritania, my Special Representative undertook two missions to that country, on 9 and 10 August and on 26 and 27 August. He met with the major stakeholders involved in the crisis and reiterated the United Nations position on the

situation, as expressed in the statement that I issued on 6 August and the Security Council's presidential statement of 19 August (S/PRST/2008/30) condemning the coup and reiterating the Council's strong opposition to any unconstitutional change of government.

27. Following the decision taken at the African Union Peace and Security Council meeting held in New York on 22 September demanding the return to constitutional order through the unconditional reinstatement of Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdellahi as President by 6 October 2008 and stating the readiness of the Council to impose more robust measures to isolate those responsible for the coup, my Special Representative encouraged constructive dialogue between the Mauritanian High State Council established by the coup leader and the international community, in particular the African Union. He also represented the United Nations at a series of consultative meetings convened in Addis Ababa by the African Union on 4 September and 10 and 21 November, bringing together the main intergovernmental organizations involved in efforts to facilitate the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania.

28. Participants in the 21 November meeting reiterated their call for the unconditional release of President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi and his inclusion in the search for a political solution as President. Subsequently, an African Union-led delegation travelled to Mauritania on 6 and 7 December, where it met with the head of the High State Council, General Abdel Aziz, and with President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi. The mission did not register any progress towards a way out of the crisis. During the visit, General Abdel Aziz promised that President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi would be released before the end of the year. The fourth coordinating meeting, held in Brussels on 12 December, took note of the intention of General Abdel Aziz to release President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi and stated that such action would be seen only as a first step towards the search for a viable solution to the crisis.

29. In a statement issued on my behalf on 21 December, I welcomed the release of President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi from house arrest and the removal of other restrictions imposed on him since he was deposed. I reiterated my call for the prompt restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania in the interests of peace and respect for the rule of law in the country. My Special Representative re-emphasized this message at the meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 22 December. While taking note of the release of President Ould Cheikh Abdellahi, the Peace and Security Council considered that that development represented only a partial response to the demands of the international community, as it had not included a return to constitutional order. The Peace and Security Council decided, therefore, that, if by 5 February 2009 constitutional order had not been restored, it would impose measures, including targeted sanctions, against the junta and seek the support of the Security Council in that regard.

D. Cross-border issues

Drug trafficking and organized crime

30. During the reporting period, UNOWA, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and ECOWAS, continued to devote particular attention to the issue of drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime in West Africa, underscoring the need for a regional approach to combat those problems. At a

tripartite meeting of ECOWAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNOWA, held in Abuja on 9 July, it was agreed that the ECOWAS ministerial conference to be held in Praia on 28 and 29 October should address the issue of drug trafficking as a threat to subregional security.

31. The Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan adopted by the ministerial conference and subsequently endorsed at the ECOWAS summit held in Abuja on 19 December, have established the basis for a strong political commitment and a detailed cooperation framework to combat drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa. The Political Declaration calls on the Security Council and the African Union to support the subregion, and invites the ECOWAS Commission to develop a legally binding mechanism on illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. The Action Plan targets priority areas, including the need to mobilize political leadership and funding at the national level, adopt effective law enforcement and foster national and regional cooperation, adopt an appropriate legal framework for effective criminal justice, deal with the emerging threats of increased drug abuse and associated health problems and establish reliable data to assess the magnitude of the drug trafficking and abuse problems affecting the subregion. UNOWA was identified as a key implementing partner of ECOWAS in pursuit of those priority areas.

32. I welcome the outcome of the Praia ministerial conference and encourage the countries of the subregion to engage resolutely in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan that they adopted, with the support of UNOWA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations system as a whole. I reiterate the appeal I made to the international community during the Praia conference to support the subregion in facing the formidable challenge posed by drug trafficking. In that regard, I wish to stress the critical importance of building capacity in the countries of the subregion and mobilizing resources to help regional States in confronting the threat at the national and cross-border levels.

Sahel region

33. UNOWA continued to follow closely developments in the Sahel region, including, in particular, progress in the mediation processes related to the rebellion in northern Mali and the situation in the Niger. On 23 and 24 October, my Special Representative undertook a visit to Mali, where he held consultations with the President, Amadou Toumani Touré, and other senior Government officials on the security situation in the country's Kidal region and on preparations for a regional conference on security and development in the Sahel. A ministerial meeting was held in Bamako on 11 November to prepare for the forthcoming summit, bringing together all the countries concerned. Recommendations were made for combating terrorism and for cross-border regional security cooperation, including joint patrols and information-sharing. Consultations are continuing regarding the date for convening the summit, at which a declaration and a plan of action on peace, security and development are expected to be adopted.

Mano River region

34. Countries of the Mano River basin deserve particular attention from the United Nations and the international community as a whole as they face common cross-

border problems and share similar post-conflict challenges. These include the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, food insecurity and youth unemployment. UNOWA, together with United Nations country teams and peace missions, will work to identify and mobilize support for suitable projects to strengthen cross-border cooperation among those countries. UNOWA placed particular emphasis on the fragile situation in Guinea and supported efforts to create conditions for the holding of legislative elections in that country.

35. Following the death of President Conté of Guinea on 22 December and the tensions created by the move by a group of military officers to seize power, I stressed, in a statement issued on 23 December, the need for a peaceful and democratic transfer of power in accordance with the Constitution. Since then, the United Nations has continued to follow closely developments in that country in liaison with ECOWAS and the African Union with a view to contributing to a smooth transition in Guinea, which in the past has played a key role in hosting refugees fleeing conflicts in other Mano River basin countries. It is in that spirit that my Special Representative travelled to Conakry on 3 January to emphasize to national stakeholders and our partners the need for a swift return to constitutional order. The United Nations will continue to support and contribute to these efforts.

Youth unemployment

36. UNOWA continues to host the West Africa office of the Youth Employment Network, a tripartite United Nations, International Labour Organization and World Bank structure launched in 2006 to develop and implement strategies to address the phenomenon of youth unemployment. As part of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness of youth unemployment as a security threat in West Africa, and as a follow-up to its August 2006 report on youth unemployment and regional insecurity in West Africa, the Office has sought the collaboration of the Youth Employment Network in the preparation of a joint action plan.

Human rights and gender

37. In line with its mandate and relevant Security Council recommendations, UNOWA continued to promote and facilitate a harmonized and integrated approach to human rights and gender in the subregion. Progress was made towards the creation of a working group to coordinate and strengthen a subregional approach to the implementation of Council resolution 1325 (2000). On 28 July, the Office convened a meeting of representatives of United Nations regional agencies, ECOWAS, West African civil society representatives and international non-governmental organizations to set up its steering committee and finalize its terms of reference and action plan with a view to completing the process early in 2009.

38. UNOWA also enhanced its cooperation with other partners, including the executive secretariat of the West Africa Civil Society Forum, with a view to formulating a subregional human rights strategy. ECOWAS and UNOWA are joint coordinators of the initiative. The Office participated in the consultative meeting convened in Dakar on 3 November by the regional office for West Africa of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, bringing together heads of country-level human rights sections, as well as those from United

Nations peace missions in the subregion, to develop a harmonized working methodology, define shared objectives and clarify the role of the regional office in promoting human rights in West Africa.

Food security and humanitarian issues

39. UNOWA has continued to play an advocacy role in engaging ECOWAS and West African leaders on the need for vigorous efforts to achieve food security. The Office has encouraged and supported ECOWAS in its initiative to follow up on the plan of action adopted at the ministerial meeting on the food crisis held in Abuja in May 2008. The Office has also continued to mobilize the attention of development partners on the threat to stability posed by food insecurity in the subregion.

40. At the suggestion of UNOWA, Dakar-based United Nations agencies agreed to maintain the issue of food security as a permanent agenda item at coordination meetings convened by the Office. At the invitation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office participated in the consolidated appeal process for West Africa, held in Dakar on 10 and 11 September, the objective of which was to contribute to the formulation of short-term priorities for humanitarian activities and funding for 2009, with particular emphasis on responding to the food crisis in the subregion. It also participated in the regional workshop convened by the World Food Programme in Dakar on 13 November. The issue of food security was also addressed at the 26 November regional directors team meeting, which adopted the theme of food security and social protection for the poor as the basis of its operational framework to support national priorities through the network of United Nations country teams. At those meetings, appreciation was expressed for the role of UNOWA in mobilizing the United Nations system on the issue of food insecurity as a threat to peace in West Africa and in raising the concerns of the humanitarian community at the appropriate political level.

E. Support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

41. In his capacity as Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, my Special Representative continued to provide support for the delimitation and demarcation process along the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary and related activities. In liaison with the Chairman of the Follow-up Committee for the Greentree Agreement, Kieran Prendergast, and officials from both countries, he engaged in sustained efforts to ensure a smooth and peaceful transfer of authority from Nigeria to Cameroon in the Bakassi peninsula, which culminated in a final handover ceremony in Calabar, Nigeria, on 14 August. In a message delivered on my behalf on that occasion by the Chairman of the Follow-up Committee, I congratulated Cameroon and Nigeria for the successful and peaceful completion of the handover process. I also reassured them of the continued support of the United Nations as they work together to finalize the demarcation of their land boundary, foster cross-border cooperation and work with their communities to build a stable and prosperous future for generations to come.

42. Since then, efforts have continued to be made, at meetings of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in Yaoundé on 9 and 10 October and of the Follow-up Committee in Geneva on 15 December, to expedite the boundary demarcation

process, promote confidence-building measures between the two countries and address the needs of the affected populations.

43. In accordance with its mandate, UNOWA continued to assist demarcation and civilian observer teams of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission with human resources, logistical and administrative support. It also assisted the Follow-up Committee in monitoring implementation of the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi peninsula.

IV. Observations and recommendations

44. In my previous report, I highlighted progress made towards consolidating peace and security in West Africa, especially in the areas of peacemaking and post-conflict recovery. At the same time, I raised concerns about key challenges posed by potentially destabilizing socio-economic, political and security trends confronting the subregion that required sustained efforts and continued attention by the United Nations and the international community. UNOWA has been proactive in contributing to efforts to address those issues, while facilitating closer collaboration among United Nations entities in the subregion and promoting stronger partnerships between the United Nations and subregional and other organizations active in West Africa, including ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, the African Union and the European Union. I encourage UNOWA to continue working closely with other international organizations and institutions to promote coordinated support for the subregion.

45. In the coming six months, UNOWA will continue to build on the promising approach adopted so far. My Special Representative will continue to contribute to mediation and good offices efforts in the subregion, focusing in particular on joint initiatives with ECOWAS and other regional organizations on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

46. With respect to the West African security landscape, areas of priority concern include: food security and the impact of the global financial crisis; elections-related issues; security sector reform and the rule of law; human rights and transitional justice; and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security.

47. UNOWA should be encouraged to continue to play an ever greater role to raise awareness of the link between drug trafficking and peace and security in West Africa and to promote the need for decisive measures to be taken to address that problem in the region. The strong cooperation developed between UNOWA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and ECOWAS on that issue should also be pursued and strengthened. In concrete terms, UNOWA, working closely with the technical expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, should play a lead role in coordinating United Nations input for the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan to combat drug trafficking, adopted at the Abuja summit on 19 December, following the Praia conference held on 28 and 29 October. To that end, I intend to dispatch a technical assessment mission early in 2009 to assess opportunities and requirements for enhanced support for ECOWAS and the subregion in that field, focusing on strengthening the capacity of security, law enforcement and judicial institutions involved in the fight against organized crime in West Africa.

48. UNOWA should also continue to assist Cameroon and Nigeria, within the overall framework of the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice of October 2002, to continue to build confidence across their common borders and to address, jointly, emerging challenges to security and socio-economic development in the region.

49. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Governments of West African States, as well as to the ECOWAS Commission and other regional institutions, for their support. I would also like to express my appreciation to entities of the United Nations system operating in the subregion, including the heads of United Nations peace missions, the heads of United Nations regional offices and country teams, and other subregional and international partners for their cooperation with UNOWA. Finally, I would like to thank my Special Representative, Said Djinnit, and the staff of UNOWA and the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for their contribution to efforts to help promote sustainable peace and security in the subregion.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Nineteen days ago, Israel, the occupying Power, started an unrelenting and brutal war against the 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Since then, Israeli officials have repeatedly and shamelessly announced that their actions, which according to several Israeli and international human rights organizations amount to war crimes, would continue despite international calls for their immediate end. Again and again, we have heard Israeli officials state that United Nations Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) is a resolution they have wilfully decided to ignore. Needless to say, this is an outrageous display of disrespect and contempt towards the United Nations, the Security Council and the will of the international community. That message is: if you possess the firepower and political support of some, you can literally get away with murder, war crimes, and aggression; in other words, you can be a State above international law. This is an intolerable situation that threatens stability and security in the region that should not be tolerated by the international community anymore.

At the writing of this letter, Israeli bombardment has killed nearly 1,000 Palestinians, including 400 children and women, and injured nearly 5,000 Palestinians, about 400 of whom are in very critical condition. Israel's war machine has spared no one and nothing; not a corner in the Gaza Strip has been spared from this destructive campaign, and as we tally the toll of this war, we must recall that Israeli occupying forces are impeding the access of the heroic Palestinian paramedics from reaching scores of Palestinian civilians injured inside their homes or buried under the rubble in many of the Strip's border-area neighbourhoods. The International Committee of the Red Cross has confirmed that the "Israeli military failed to meet its obligation under international humanitarian law to care for and evacuate the wounded". Sadly, medical officials on the ground have confirmed that the number they are now reporting is limited only to those killed and injured who they have been able to recover. Survivors of Israeli bombardment insist that while fleeing their towns and neighbourhoods across Gaza, they witnessed scores of

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decomposing bodies lying on the ground and under the rubble, adding to their trauma and fear.

Overnight, Israeli artillery and warplanes continued to pound residential neighbourhoods across the Gaza Strip, sparing nothing and no one, including cemeteries. Seventeen Palestinians were killed during the overnight hours in circumstances that only add further proof of the brutality of Israel's war. Palestinian medical sources confirm that several Palestinian civilians fleeing the bombardment were shelled by Israeli forces, as was the case in Khan Younis, which resulted in the killing of a woman and the severe injury of several of her family members. To the north, in Gaza City's Al-Shate' refugee camp and Jabaliya refugee camp, Israeli bombardment targeted apartments in residential buildings, killing and injuring several civilians.

There is growing evidence on the ground, corroborated by international weapons experts of Human Rights Watch, that Israeli forces are firing missiles and artillery shells containing white phosphorous into densely populated neighbourhoods across the Gaza Strip. In Khuzaa, south of Khan Younis, Beit Hanoun, and Jabaliya, Palestinians report that their homes are being bombed and burned by Israeli shells that fall burning and emitting a choking white smoke that from the sky looks like a jellyfish raining down balls of fire on innocent civilians. Doctors in Gaza have pleaded repeatedly for help in treating wounds and severe burns that they have never seen in the past. They say some of the weapons that Israel is using burns human flesh down to the bare bones and others amputate and sear bodies, leaving shrapnel that cannot be detected by X-ray, which results in the death of patients after doctors treat them for the wounds they can detect. These types of amputations and undetectable shrapnel are consistent, according to experts and doctors, with the use of DIME, an illegal and highly hazardous weapon.

Also highly alarming are accusations by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem that Israeli forces in Khuzaa, south of Khan Younis, shot 50-year-old Rawia al-Najjar, as she tried to flee the bombarded village, waving a white flag. No one has been able to reach her; she is still lying on the street injured, perhaps now dead. According to eyewitnesses quoted by the organization, Rawia had decided to venture out in the street with a white flag in order to signal to the Israeli forces that civilians in the area wanted to flee the bombing. She was shot as soon as she stepped out of the house, even though she was following the orders of Israeli forces, who told residents on loudspeakers that they should evacuate their homes carrying white flags and take shelter in a school close by. Also in Khusaa, B'Tselem says that eyewitnesses confirm that Israeli soldiers killed 54-year-old Mohamad Al-Najjar, 25-year-old Ahmad al-Najjar, and 80-year-old Khalil al-Najjar and injured several others as they waved a white flag and walked out of their homes towards the school Israeli forces instructed them to flee to.

While this wanton killing and destruction is happening on the ground in Gaza, we hear shocking words from Israeli officials. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has told Israeli media that her country has achieved what it wanted, which, in her words, was to prove that Israel can act with madness and without any inhibitions in Gaza. This is a shameless attempt to boast about the killing of hundreds of civilians and the destruction of an entire occupied region that should be confronted with absolute condemnation. In another case of criminal incitement, Avigdor Lieberman, the right-wing Israeli politician, called on the Israeli army to wipe Gaza off,

employing, in his words, the same means the United States employed against Japan in the Second World War, in reference to the atomic bomb. This is an abject and clear call for mass murder and genocide.

The heart-wrenching images that are coming out of Gaza cannot be disputed; neither can the impassioned testimonies of human rights activists and doctors who have been shocked by the brutality and extremism of Israel's war against Gaza's defenceless population. Palestinians cannot find space to bury their dead in Gaza's cemeteries so they are forced to dig their loved ones' old graves. We ask you, how much more can humanity tolerate as the basic principles of human dignity are violated in Gaza? The values of humanity are being shattered in Gaza at the hands of a brutal occupying Power whose crimes have known no limits. Enough has been said; Gaza's terrorized and bombarded population deserves more from the world than words, pleas, and hopes that so far have not stopped a single Israeli bomb from shattering the lives of yet another Palestinian family, and the innocence and the mental health of yet another Palestinian child.

We appreciate the diplomatic efforts now being undertaken by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, but time is of the essence and stopping this aggression must be achieved immediately and not when Israel decides.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 331 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 January 2009 (A/ES-10/437–S/2009/30), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. (As all the victims have not yet been identified, their names will be included in an annex to a future letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

United Nations A/63/682–S/2009/41

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 17 to 31 December 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Majdi **Ramadan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-21105 (E) 190109 200109

Annex to the identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 17 to 31 December 2008

Air violations

On 17 December 2008:

- At 0900 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Rumaysh at 0200 hours on 18 December 2008;
- Between 1006 and 1042 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Kafr Killa;
- At 1012 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1105 hours; two of the warplanes left over Naqurah, while the other two left over the sea off Tripoli, heading in the direction of Turkey;
- Between 1123 and 1128 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Rumaylah. They proceeded south before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 18 December 2008, between 1730 and 1900 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew at high altitude over the Nabatiyah area.

On 19 December 2008, between 0140 and 0505 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes intermittently violated Lebanese airspace over Lebanese territorial waters off the coast of Ra's al-Naqurah.

On 28 December 2008, six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace as follows:

- At 1002 hours, two warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Shab'a Farms. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1135 hours over Alma al-Sha'b;
- At 1015 hours, two warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b at 1155 hours;
- At 2102 hours, two warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Aytarun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving from over the sea off Naqurah at 2330 hours.

On 30 December 2008, between 1700 and 1830 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Naqurah and heading north. It circled over the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving over Naqurah.

Sea violations

On 18 December 2008, at 1855 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat in the open sea within occupied Palestinian territorial waters off Ra's Naqurah directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for three minutes.

On 24 December 2008, at 0115 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards buoy no. 5 for 30 seconds.

On 26 December 2008, at 1940 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards the line of buoys for 1 minute and 40 seconds.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 19 December 2008, at 1600 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol violated the technical fence near Bi'r Sh'ayb on the outskirts of Blida, near point BP28, and abducted Lebanese nationals Tarraf Tarraf and Hassan Tarraf.

On 20 December 2008, at 0250 hours, from its position beyond the border at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for 20 seconds towards the first five buoys in the line of buoys.

On 21 December 2008, between 1918 and 2003 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy for 10 seconds directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters north of the line of buoys and all along that line.

On 24 December 2008, at 1715 hours, as it proceeded from the Zar'it barracks towards Birkat Rishah, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles directed a searchlight towards Tarbikha for five seconds.

Israeli activities

On 18 December 2008, at 1000 hours, as Lebanese national Muhammad Dahir was tilling his land, located near the Lebanese-Palestinian border on the outskirts of Blida at B'ir Sh'ayb, a motorized patrol belonging to the Israeli enemy lobbed three smoke bombs towards Mr. Dahir in occupied territory.

On 21 December 2008, at 1200 hours, as Lebanese national Malik Ghazi was tending his land, which is located adjacent to the Lebanese-Palestinian border between points BP28 and BP29, an Israeli patrol drove up. Its elements disembarked, took up combat positions and pointed their weapons at Mr. Ghazi, without violating the Blue Line.

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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of the violations committed by Israel by air, sea and land during the month of December 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Majdi **Ramadan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-21099 (E) 190109 200109

Annex to the identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during December 2008

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Light violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*December total*	*Previous months' violations*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare shells, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
16	10	—	26	7	—	6	—	6	39	54

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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 15 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 8 and 14 January 2009, Israeli forces pounded Lebanese territories with mortar bombs in flagrant and blatant violation of the Blue Line and Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). While Israel claimed that its violations were in response to rockets launched from Lebanese territories, Lebanon wishes to denounce the Israeli actions as unjustifiable and constituting a violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

Israel undertook a serious unilateral action, undermining the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is working closely with both parties in order to address all incidents in a way that safeguards stability and security in its area of operation.

On 14 January 2009, a Joint Investigation Committee consisting of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL was established to investigate the firing of an unknown number of rockets from Lebanese territory towards the Occupied Territories. The investigation concluded that two grad missiles were fired from Lebanese territory, and that due to the failure of one missile and a malfunction in the other, both missiles landed inside Lebanese territory and did not reach the Occupied Territories.

The investigation also concluded that, shortly after the incident, Israel fired 15 155mm shells towards Lebanese territory, targeting the launching and impact sites of the two missiles inside Lebanese territory.

This unjustifiable Israeli targeting took place, despite the fact that no missiles reached the Occupied Territories.

The Lebanese Government wishes to reiterate its firm position condemning any violation of resolution 1701 (2006), regardless of its justification, and its rejection of any hostile activities within the UNIFIL area of operation as per Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

09-21184 (E) 190109

The Lebanese authorities are actively cooperating with UNIFIL in ensuring peace and security in South Lebanon. I wish to emphasize the gravity of Israel's unilateral actions, which are untenable and which add to the ongoing Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). These violations include, among others, overflights and the occupation of the Lebanese part of Al-Ghajar and of Shab'a Farms.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15.

(*Signed*) Majdi **Ramadan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2009/44

Security Council

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Letter dated 14 January 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I have the honour to convey to you a letter which I have received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the sixteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

09-21272 (E) 200109 270109

Annex

Letter from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: English]

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I enclose herewith the sixteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008. I should be grateful if you would transmit the report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008.

2. United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007) and 1845 (2008) request that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU), report to the Council on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), through the appropriate channels and at least at three monthly intervals. This document is the sixteenth such report.

II. Political background

3. The ratification process of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina was completed on 6 November.

4. Municipal elections were held on 5 October. The Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), the Party for Democratic Action (SDA) and the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ BiH) won the contests among the Serb, Bosniak and Croat constituent peoples, respectively. On 8 November, SNSD, SDA and HDZ BiH met to discuss the way forward and agreed on a joint statement. The three parties made a general statement on how to advance issues related to the workplan of the Office of the High Representative, such as State property and the Brčko District, and issues important for European integration, such as census and constitutional reform.

5. On 10 November, the Council of the European Union expressed its full support for the High Representative/EU Special Representative, Miroslav Lajčák, and his efforts to ensure compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreements and progress with reform. The Council said that the signing of the SAA constituted an important milestone in the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union. However, it voiced deep concern about recent developments in the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the use of nationalist rhetoric and the implementation of unilateral decisions by some leaders, thereby jeopardizing power-sharing and the foundations of the State. While reaffirming Bosnia and Herzegovina European prospects, the Council called on the Bosnian authorities to shoulder their responsibilities and to renew their efforts to push through the necessary reforms for Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress on the path towards the European Union. The Council noted with satisfaction the agreement along these lines between three of the main Bosnian parties. It called for these proposals to be rapidly put into concrete form and invited the Bosnian political forces to unite around this project. The Council reiterated its support for the aim of transition from the Office of the High Representative to a stronger European Union presence. The Council also pointed out that the Peace Implementation Council had listed five objectives and two necessary conditions for closure of the High Representative's

Office. The Council called on the Bosnian authorities to intensify their efforts to fulfil all those objectives and conditions.

6. On 19 and 20 November, the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board met to review progress on the five objectives and two conditions to be delivered by the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to allow for closure of the Office of the High Representative and transition to a reinforced EU Special Representative. The Steering Board noted that there had been little progress in addressing reform. It expressed deep concern about political developments since its last meeting on 25 and 26 June, notably the divisive rhetoric that challenged the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the authority of the High Representative and the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

7. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although nationalistic rhetoric continued, it had no impact on the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continued closely to monitor the security situation.

8. The force of some 2,200 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1(a) and 2; and contributing to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with EUPM, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the search for persons indicted for war crimes.

9. During the reporting period EUFOR, in response to ICTY requests, and with the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and local police, carried out search operations against support networks for persons indicted for war crimes.

10. There was further progress during the reporting period in the area of joint military affairs. EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) continued to conduct joint inspections of the latter's ammunition and weapon storage sites. By the end of September, all storage sites had been inspected. AFBiH has now assumed full responsibility, but EUFOR continues to monitor and advise in order to ensure the self-sustainability of AFBiH capabilities. EUFOR continued to assist and support AFBiH with planning for the disposal of surplus arms and ammunition: the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence disposal plan was forwarded to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for final approval. EUFOR has made the necessary technical preparations on civilian movement control (control of the movement of weapons and ammunition by Bosnia and Herzegovina contractors) and is ready to hand over responsibility to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina once they have adopted the necessary legislation.

11. During the reporting period, EUFOR and AFBiH continued further to develop and conduct combined training based on AFBiH requests to intensify training in specific military fields.

12. On 10 November, the Council of the European Union reviewed the operation. It highlighted the decisive progress made by the operation towards accomplishing its mandate, in particular the completion of the military and stabilization tasks provided for by the Dayton/Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the Council considered that the preparatory work for a possible development of the operation should be continued, taking into account the future role of the EU Special Representative. The outcome of this preparatory work will be submitted to the Council in March 2009 so that it can take a decision on the future of the operation as soon as the conditions have been met. In this context, the Council noted that the future development of the operation would have to take political developments into account.

13. On 4 December, Major General Stefano Castagnotto succeeded Major General Ignacio Martín Villalaín as Force Commander.[1]

IV. Outlook

14. The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the prospects of continuing political tension.

[1] Beyond the reporting period but included for completeness.

United Nations A/63/687–S/2009/45

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 20 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 1 to 14 January 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-21655 (E) 220109 230109

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 14 January 2009

Air violations

On 2 January 2009, six enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace as follows:

- At 1005 hours, two planes entered over Kafr Kila and circled over all Lebanese regions.
- At 1054 hours, four planes entered over Kafr Kila, flew north as far as the Shuf, and then flew south. All departed at 1108 over Naqurah.

On 5 January 2009, at 1040 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft entered Lebanese airspace over Naqurah and flew north. It circled over regions of the South, and departed on 6 January 2009 at 0650 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 6 January 2009, six enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace as follows:

- At 0955 hours, two planes entered over Kafr Kila and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed at 1120 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.
- At 1040 hours, four planes entered over Kafr Shuba and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed at 1120 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 2025 hours and 2045 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Na`imah hills and the town of Ba`warta at high altitude.

On 7 January 2009, between 1110 hours and 1300 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north as far as Nabatiyah. It circled over the southern regions, and then departed at 1300 hours over Rumaysh.

On 8 January 2009, at 2235 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab`a farmlands and flying north as far as Shikka. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and then departed on 9 January 2009 at 0040 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 9 January 2009, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace as follows:

- At 2201 hours, two warplanes entered over Kafr Kila and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed at 2245 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.
- At 2255 hours, two warplanes entered over Mays al-Jabal and circled over the Bekaa, Shikka and Jubayl. They departed at 2323 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.
- At 2355 hours, a reconnaissance aircraft entered over `Alma al-Sha`b and circled over the Bekaa and the South. It departed on 10 January 2009 at 0320 hours over Kafr Kila.

On 10 January 2009, between 0708 hours and 1600 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila and flying north. It circled over regions of the South, and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 2200 hours and 2325 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila and flying north. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 11 January 2009, between 1102 hours and 1300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila and flying north. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 2118 hours and 2210 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila and flying north. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed over Rumaysh.

On 12 January 2009, between 2208 hours and 2320 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a farmlands. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed over Rumaysh.

On 13 January 2009, between 1010 hours and 1045 hours, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila and flying north as far as Beirut. They circled over Beirut, the western Bekaa and the South, and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

At 1918 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying as far as Tyre. It circled over the southern regions, and departed on 14 January 2009 at 1900 hours over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 2002 hours and 2345 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Yarun and flying north. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 14 January 2009, between 1130 hours and 1210 hours, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Shuba and flying north as far as the Shuf. They circled between the Shuf and the South, and departed over Kafr Kila.

Between 1132 hours and 1245 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh and flying north as far as Baalbek. They circled between the Bekaa, Shikka and Jubayl, and then over all Lebanese regions, before departing over the sea off Naqurah.

At 2300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh and flying north as far as Shikka. They circled over all Lebanese regions, and departed on 15 January 2009 at 0100 hours over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Sea violations

On 1 January 2009, at 2255 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight for five seconds from its position in Ra's al-Naqurah in the direction of the line of buoys, and again for 20 seconds at 2355 hours.

On 2 January 2009, at 0225 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight for 20 seconds from its position in Ra's al-Naqurah in the direction of the line of buoys.

On 13 January 2009, at 2330 hours, an enemy Israeli military launch violated Lebanese territorial waters to a distance of 50 metres over the line of buoys at 8.2 nautical miles off Ra's al-Naqurah. It departed at 2332 hours.

Ground violations

On 3 January 2009, at 2323 hours, as an enemy Israeli Hummer Jeep was travelling from the enemy's position at Ra's al-Naqurah in the direction of the Labunah position, it shone a searchlight for five seconds in the direction of the Lebanese Army position at Ra's al-Naqurah.

On 8 January 2009, at 0730 hours, enemy Israeli forces fired eight 155 mm artillery shells that landed in Wadi al-Zarqa outside of the town of Tayr Harfa.

On 12 January 2009, at 1210 hours, in front of Kafr Kila position LM-12, enemy Israeli soldiers proceeded to harass Lebanese civilian passers-by and to shout vulgarities at them and at soldiers.

On 13 January 2009, at 2110 hours, enemy Israeli forces inside occupied Palestinian territory fired three flare shells over Lebanese territory at Khullat al-'Adas between the towns of al-Zahirah and Yarin. At the same time, a large number of enemy vehicles were moving around inside occupied territory near the enemy position across from al-Zahirah.

On 14 January 2009, at 0830 hours, the Israeli enemy proceeded to launch several artillery shells at the outskirts of the villages of Kafr Hamam, al-Habbariyah and Wata' al-Khiyam.

At various times, calls were received on civilian and military telephone lines threatening that of Lebanese citizens collaborated with Hizbullah or the Palestinian factions, who were described as saboteurs, they would suffer a repeat of the July 2006 war.

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Security Council

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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1825 (2008), 1796 (2008) and 1740 (2007),

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Nepal and its ownership of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements,

Recalling the signing on 21 November 2006 by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the stated commitment of both parties to find a permanent and sustainable peace and commending the steps taken to date to implement the Agreement,

Acknowledging the strong desire of the Nepalese people for peace and the restoration of democracy and the importance in this respect of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements by the relevant parties,

Expressing its continued readiness to support the peace process in Nepal in the timely and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements, in particular the 25 June Agreement, as requested by the Government of Nepal,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Constituent Assembly elections on 10 April 2008, and the progress made by the parties since the formation of the Constituent Assembly in working towards a democratic government, including the decision made at the first session of the Constituent Assembly to establish Nepal as a federal democratic republic,

Welcoming the formation of a democratically elected government and institutions in Nepal,

Welcoming the establishment of the Special Committee for the supervision, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army personnel, and *calling upon* the Government of Nepal, and all political parties to work together to ensure the effective working of the committee, and to complete the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army personnel,

Echoing the Secretary-General's call for all parties in Nepal to move forward swiftly in the implementation of the agreements reached, *noting* the Secretary-

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General's assessment that the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) will be well placed to assist in the management of arms and armed personnel in accordance with the 25 June Agreement between the political parties, and recognizing UNMIN's willingness to assist the parties in this, as requested, in order to achieve a durable solution,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 2 January on the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), in accordance with his mandate,

Welcoming the completion of two phases of the verification process and continuing assistance with the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides in accordance with resolution 1740 (2007) and in line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, *noting* the importance of a durable long term solution in helping to create the conditions for completion of UNMIN's activities and *noting* also in this regard the need to address outstanding issues, particularly the release of minors in cantonment sites, and *welcoming* the Government of Nepal's commitment to discharge minors without further delay, and *calling upon* the Government of Nepal to implement this commitment as soon as possible, and for continued reporting on this issue as required under resolution 1612 (2005),

Noting with appreciation that with the successful holding of the Constituent Assembly elections, some of the elements of the mandate relating to UNMIN as set out in resolution 1740 (2007) have already been accomplished,

Taking note of the Government of Nepal's letter to the Secretary-General of 12 December 2008 (S/2008/837), which recognises UNMIN's contribution and requests an extension of UNMIN at a smaller scale to carry out the remainder of the mandate for six months, and further taking note of the intention of the Government of Nepal with regard to termination of UNMIN's monitoring requirements by the end of this six month period,

Recognizing the need to pay special attention to the needs of women, children and traditionally marginalized groups in the peace process, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and resolution 1325 (2000),

Recognizing that civil society can play an important role in democratic transition and conflict prevention,

Expressing appreciation for the contribution of the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the efforts of his team in UNMIN, and the United Nations Country Team, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which is monitoring human rights at the request of the government, and *stressing* the need for coordination and complementarity of efforts between the mission and all the United Nations actors in the mission area, particularly in order to ensure continuity, as the mandate comes to an end,

1. *Decides* in line with the request from the Government of Nepal and the Secretary-General's recommendations, to renew the mandate of UNMIN as established under resolution 1740 (2007) until 23 July 2009, taking into account the completion of some elements of the mandate, the ongoing work on the monitoring and the management of arms and armed personnel in line with the 25 June Agreement among the political parties, which will support the completion of the peace process;

2. *Calls upon* all parties to take full advantage of the expertise and readiness of UNMIN, within its mandate, to support the peace process to facilitate the completion of outstanding aspects of UNMIN's mandate;

3. *Concurs* with the Secretary-General's view that the current monitoring arrangements cannot be maintained indefinitely, and *underlines* the need for the Government of Nepal to consider necessary measures to reduce UNMIN's monitoring requirements;

4. *Endorses* the Secretary-General's recommendations for a phased, gradual, drawdown and withdrawal of UNMIN staff, including arms monitors, as proposed in paragraph 62 and 63 of the Report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council informed of progress towards implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on this and the implications for UNMIN, with a view to further downsizing of UNMIN, no later than 30 April 2009;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Nepal to continue to take the necessary decisions to create conditions conducive to completion of UNMIN's activities by the end of the current mandate, including through implementation of the 25 June Agreement, in order to facilitate UNMIN's withdrawal from Nepal;

7. *Welcomes* progress achieved so far, and *calls upon* all political parties in Nepal to expedite the peace process, and to continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation, consensus and compromise in order to continue the transition to a durable long-term solution to enable the country to move to a peaceful, democratic and more prosperous future;

8. *Requests* the parties in Nepal to take the necessary steps to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of UNMIN and associated personnel in executing the tasks defined in the mandate;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2009/47

Security Council

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Letter dated 20 January 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1854 (2008) concerning Liberia, adopted on 19 December 2008, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 1819 (2008) for a further period, until 20 December 2009, to undertake the tasks set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1854 (2008). In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Council requested me to reappoint the members of the Panel of Experts and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel.

I should like to note that Mr. Nelson Alusala, who served on the Panel during the mandate accorded by the Security Council in resolution 1819 (2008), is not able to continue his service with the Panel at this time.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have appointed the following experts:

Mr. Thomas R. Creal (United States of America)
Ms. Wynet V. Smith (Canada)

I have also designated Ms. Smith to serve as Coordinator of the Panel.

I will inform you as soon as a third expert has been appointed, in consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, to replace Mr. Alusala.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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